THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a fall in loading of domestic container traffic during 1990-91 when 26,649 units were loaded as compared to 29,281 in the previous year.

(b) The decline in traffic is on account of the depleting fleet of railway owned domestic containers on account of over-age.

(c) Railways have already started utilising International Standard Organisation (I.S.O.) marine containers for transport of domestic cargo to supplement the fleet of domestic containers. The marketing of these services is now being done by Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) in close association with freight forwarders, container holding companies, the trade and the Railways.

Cases of Derailments

1843. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of derailment cases reported during the last two years;

(b) the reasons for these derailments; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to avert such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) There were 902 derailments during 1989-90 and 1990-91. The accidents took place mainly due to failure of railway staff, equipment failure and sabotage.

(c) Some of the important steps being taken to reduce derailments include strengthening/renewal of track structure, ultrasonic testing of rails, improving quality of out-turn from workshops, intensive and frequent inspections of sensitive installations and patrolling of track in disturbed areas.

Reservation Quota of Jhansi Division

1844. SHRI V. N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quota of berths in Jhansi division has been reduced during the last few years,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the quota of berths in that division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There has been no reduction in the overall availability of reservation quotas on Jhansi Division.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The reservation quotas on Jhansi Division have been increased from 5111 berths in January, 1989 to 8880 berths in June, 1991.

Setting up of Gas Based Power Plant in Uttar Pradesh

1845. SHRI V. N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any gas based power plant in Uttar Pradesh preferably near Delhi to meet power shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not utilising the gas at present going waste in H.B.J. Gas pipe line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A gas based power project, 817 MW (4 × 131.3 GT+2 × 146 MW ST), at an estimated cost of Rs. 692.44 crores, is being set up by the National Thermal Power Corporation at Dadri near Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.